

4-6-1849

# Letter from Joseph M. Trimble to James B. Finley

Joseph M. Trimble

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Cincinnati Ohio  
April 6<sup>th</sup> 1849

My dear Mr. Finley,

You may be a little surprised to receive a letter from me of the tenor of the one I propose to write, but I hope you will not condemn my motive. whatever you may think of my zeal -

I very much regret to see my old, beloved friend, taking sides with innovation, of our rules as he has done in his puff of Hayton & J. Inker.

Did not our rule say expressly, "Let the men & women set apart," I could apologise better for your virtual approval of the innovation in Hayton - Are you going to countenance the introduction of a spirit of misrule into our Western Methodist? If our rule may be trampled under foot, so may another. If pre-seals wont do, pious ones may be tried. And all for the purpose of having better order,

O my dear Mr. Finley that letter of yours is giving pain to many hearts that love you, & that love Methodism better than men. We have not forgotten how the efforts & zeal made to change our rules, without the consent of God Conference. Nor have we forgotten the Columbus Speeches & resolutions, on this subject.

Now I do hope you will review that, & pledge not to oppose innovation and stand where



Rev. James B. Finley  
Methodist Episcopal Church  
Cincinnati Ohio

Recd  
J. W. Finley  
Apr 1 1849



you have always stood. The defender of  
Methodist Law & usages

I assure you that Slavery step is the  
entering wedge to wider and more ruinous  
departures from discipline; and if we wink  
at it fare well to subordination and  
fare well to some of the most important  
destructive features of Methodism —

Now let me entreat, you beseech you,  
one of our Fathers, in the Ohio Conference, one  
that we want to love and honour while  
living and when dead, do not, favour  
or countenance these. New features of mischief

You know I love you and have  
always loved you, since my acquaintance  
with you & I would rather <sup>have</sup> lost almost any  
earthly possession, than to be compelled to  
witness my old friend & beloved brother in Christ  
virtually approving what Judge McLean calls  
worse than poisoning our Churches.

What I say I say in this way  
to you & I am done. If you think little  
of my letter put it on the fire. A wounded  
heart has dictated it but one that loves you  
I assure you

Affectionately yours Br. in Christ  
Jos. A. Smith